Docket: 453936

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A protected cold cathode fluorescent (CCFL) lamp assembly comprising:

a. a tubular CCFL lamp element having two ends, and at each end at least one energizing electrode adapted to be coupled to a source of electrical energy;

b. a protective housing element surrounding said lamp element and substantially coextensive therewith;

c. resilient lamp support members for holding the respective ends of said lamp element within said protective housing element spaced apart from the interior surfaces thereof, the resilient support members adapted to provide circumferential support to at least portions of the respective electrodes, such that the electrodes are supported against bending; and

d. conductive means for coupling said electrodes to a source of energy exterior to said protective housing element.

2. (Original) The protected lamp assembly of Claim 1, above, further including end cap means mounted at the ends of said protective housing element.

3. (Previously presented) The protected lamp assembly of Claim 2, above, wherein said lamp support members are integral with said end cap means.

4. (Original) The protected lamp assembly of Claim 1, above, wherein said conductive means include a conductive coating in electrical contact with said electrodes.

5. (Previously presented) A protected cold cathode fluorescent (CCFL) lamp assembly, comprising:

a. at least one tubular CCFL lamp element having two ends, and at each end at least one energizing electrode adapted to be coupled to a source of electrical energy;

b. a protective housing element surrounding said at least one CCFL lamp element and substantially coextensive therewith;

c. at least one resilient lamp support member for holding at least one end of the at least one lamp element within said protective housing element spaced apart from the interior surfaces thereof; and

d. conductive means for coupling said electrodes to a source of energy exterior to said protective housing element; and

e. end cap means mounted at one end of said protective housing element, the end cap means adapted to support the housing element and to support the conductive means;

wherein the conductive means includes a conductor extending from one of the energizing electrodes to and through the end cap at the opposite end of said lamp element.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) A protected cold cathode fluorescent (CCFL) lamp assembly comprising:

a. a tubular CCFL lamp element having two ends, and at each end at least one energizing electrode adapted to be coupled to a source of electrical energy;

b. a protective housing element surrounding said lamp element and substantially coextensive therewith;

c. resilient lamp support members for holding the respective ends of said lamp element within said protective housing element spaced apart from the interior surfaces thereof, the resilient support members adapted to provide circumferential support to at least portions of the respective electrode, such that the electrodes are supported against bending;

d. end cap means mounted at the ends of said protective housing element; and

e. conductive means for coupling said electrodes to a source of energy exterior to said protective housing element.

9. (Previously presented) The protected lamp assembly of Claim 8, above, wherein said lamp support members are integral with said end cap means.

10. (Original) The protected lamp assembly of Claim 9, above, wherein said conductive means include elements extending out of said end cap means which are adapted to connect to a source of energy.

11. (Original) The protected lamp assembly of Claim 9, above, wherein said conductive means further include a conductor connected to one of the energizing electrodes at one end of said tubular lamp element, said conductor extending to the opposite end of said tubular lamp element and through said end cap means whereby a source of energy need only be applied to one end of the protected lamp assembly.

12. (Original) The protected lamp assembly of Claim 8, above, wherein said conductive means include a conductive coating in electrical contact with said electrodes.